

FATF compliance report: US experts team due today to assist Pakistan

At a time when US experts team on FATF is due in Islamabad today (5th Aug'19), Pakistani authorities are all set to submit their compliance report on progress of 27-point action plan to joint group of FATF within envisaged deadline of 13th Aug'19. A high-powered US team will be visiting with the purpose to provide technical support for complying with the FATF conditions. Washington's help is considered as critical for getting desired results at two fronts including FATF and smooth sailing on reviews under the IMF program. *The News-Mon.*

Strike threatened: Traders rejects proposed fixed tax scheme

Traders have out rightly rejected the FBR's fixed tax scheme and have announced that their strike call will not be called off until FBR revises the scheme in line with their recommendations formulated in consultation with former finance minister Asad Umar. They said that the scheme for small shopkeepers would lead to double taxation on small shopkeepers as every shopkeeper is registered as a commercial unit with the utility department and is already paying taxes between PKR 30,000 - 50,000 per month in the form of taxes on electricity and gas bills. Traders have announced a 4-day shutter down strike after Eid-ul-Azha against the mandatory requirement of providing CNIC for sale and purchase of goods. *BR-Sun.*

Pakistan will become 128th country to ban use of plastic bags on 14th

Having imposed a rather belated blanket ban on the use of polythene shopping bags in Islamabad with effect from 14th Aug'19. Pakistan will finally enter the ever-growing club of countries that are taking the threat of plastic pollution seriously. According to a UN report, by July 2018, some 127 countries have already implemented some type of policy regulating plastic bags. *The News-Mon.*

Sindh govt exempting newspaper ads from sales tax

Sindh Information adviser, Murtaza Wahab, proposed to withdraw the Sindh Sales Tax (SST) on certain advertisements published in newspapers and periodicals. The cabinet approved withdrawal of 3% SST levied on advertisements published in newspapers. *The News-Sun.*

PKR 33.6Bn Karachi project approved by ECNEC

ECNEC has approved Competitive and Livable City Karachi (CLICK) project at a cost of PKR 33.60Bn including PKR 32.20Bn loan from the World Bank. The proposed program is the off-shoot of Karachi Transformation Strategy and is expected to be a long-term engagement of the World Bank in Karachi to address the structural development needs of Karachi and is aimed at improving competitiveness and livability of Karachi. *BR-Mon.*

Clean city: Karachi will have a new look by August 14, claims Zaidi

Federal minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi has pledged that the city will have a new look on 14th Aug'19 as the federal govt. works to remove garbage and dirt from the city's nullahs, streets and roads in just 2 weeks and the FWO will look after the arrangement and supervise the funding of the campaign. The Minister asked Sindh govt. to immediately impose ban on the use of plastic bags across the province. The business community, including BMG Chairman Siraj Kasim Teli and KCCI President Junaid Esmail Makda, held a meeting with the federal minister on 3rd Aug'19. *Tribune-Sun.*

Improvement of II Chundrigar Road to start soon

Sindh govt. will spend PKR 248Mn on the rehabilitation of II Chundrigar Road under the ADP in order to restore the aesthetic beauty of the main commercial artery of Karachi. The improvement work that includes proper designing in a thematic way from Shaheen Complex to Merewether Tower and is expected to be completed in 6 months. *Tribune-Sun.*

Pakistan urges Korean companies to participate in CPEC

Pakistan has urged the Korean companies to participate in CPEC related projects and has also proposed for establishment of exclusive economic zone for Korean companies under this mega project. Adviser to PM on Commerce, Razzak Dawood was addressing the Pak-Korea CEO forum held in Seoul. In this regard, Korea will send buying mission/delegation of importers to Pakistan in coming months. Razak Dawood offered early harvest Program to his Korean counterpart which may lead to a FTA between the 2 countries. *The News-Sun.*

SHC dismisses pharma companies' plea for exemption from sales tax

The Sindh High Court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by pharmaceutical companies seeking exemption from the sales tax on imports of packing material used in the manufacturing of pharmaceutical products/finished drugs as packing material is not a raw material for the basic manufacture of pharmaceutical active ingredients as well as pharmaceutical products. *The News-Sun.*

Stock market fund worth PKR 20Bn faces hurdles

The creation of the govt.-approved stock market fund worth PKR 20Bn to arrest a persistent slide at the PSX is facing hurdles as the govt. is unable to issue sovereign guarantee under the IMF loan program. ECC of the cabinet had approved the establishment of the fund, called the State Enterprise Fund (SEF), on 30th May'19. *BR-Sun.*

Pakistan loses key positions at WTO bodies

Pakistan is fast losing its standing at the WTO due to the govt.'s inability to send a permanent ambassador to the global body after the post fell vacant a year ago. The selection process for the appointment of ambassador at the permanent mission of the WTO is painstakingly slow with candidates not meeting the criteria. Due to the inordinate delay in sending a new ambassador, Pakistan has lost the chairman and coordinator's positions at 3 important WTO and member countries' bodies over the past more than 6 months. *Tribune-Sun.*

Govt to turn regulators friendly to woo investors

The govt. has decided to review existing regulatory regimes and turn regulators friendly in a bid to facilitate domestic and international investors and attract investment. The decision was taken in a recent meeting of the cabinet. BOI, in consultation with Adviser on Institutional Reforms Ishrat Husain, would review the existing regulatory regimes and submit recommendations in line with the policy matrix developed to facilitate international and domestic investors on priority. *Tribune-Sun.*

Chiniot, Chagai ore steel mill project picked for Saudi investment

The country's first ever local iron-ore steel mill to be established in Chiniot tops the list of four potential projects selected by the govt. from across the country for investment by Saudi Arabia. The other project include establishment of a steel mill based on iron ores of Chagai (Balochistan). The ministry of energy, industry and mineral resources of Saudi Arabia had asked Pakistan to provide maximum possible technical, financial and infrastructure details about potential projects in the mining sectors. *Dawn-Mon.*

Removal of gas cylinders from PSVs

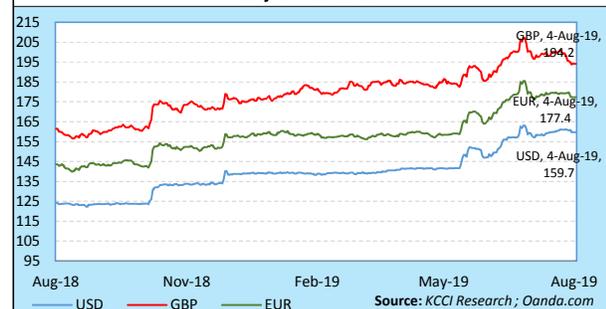
All Pakistan CNG Association (APCNGA) has threatened to challenge the govt.'s decision of banning cylinder in public service vehicles (PSVs) as the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration and Motorway police have launched crackdown on such vehicles. The provincial govt.s of Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan have not yet taken any step in this regard. According to Ogra's directives all provincial govt.s as well as IG Motorways Police have been requested to start crackdown against all PSVs having CNG cylinders installed inside the passenger vans. *The Nation-Mon.*

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	2-Aug	PKR	159.12	-0.19%
USD-Open MKT	2-Aug	PKR	159.10	-0.25%
KSE-100 index	2-Aug	Pts.	31,666	-0.54%
FIPI	2-Aug	\$ Mn	-0.12	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	2-Aug	\$/bbl	55.22	1.36%
Gold (MA'19)	2-Aug	\$/oz	1,443.9	-0.32%
Gold (10g) Local	2-Aug	PKR	72,016	1.08%
Silver (MA'19)	2-Aug	\$/oz	16.21	-0.83%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	2-Aug	PKR	9,002	0.00%
Kibor-6M	2-Aug	%	14.03	0.01%
Forex Reserves	26-Jul	\$ Bn	15.06	-1.23%
	FY19			YoY
Remittances	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	21.84	9.68%
Exports*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	22.98	-1.00%
Imports*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	54.80	-9.86%
Trade Balance*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	-31.82	15.33%
Current Account	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	-13.59	31.71%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	1.74	-49.96%
LSM Growth*	Jul-May 19	%	-3.50	
Avg. CPI	Jul-19	%	10.34	
Discount Rate	Jul-19	%	13.25	

Sources: KCCI Research, PMEX, NCCPL, KSE, SBP, PBS*
** Not Meaningful on week;

Major Currencies

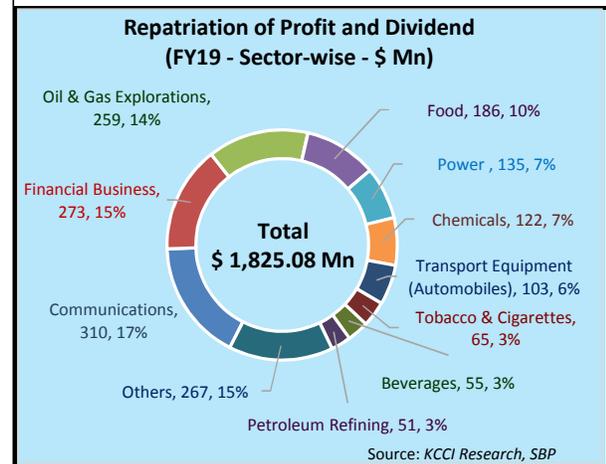


Quote of the Day

“Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world.”

Roy T. Bennett

Chart of the Day



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